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URALMASH, THE PRIDE OF SOVIET INDUSTRY

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In June 1941, Uralmash was assigned the job of making armored bodies for tanks. A number of other semifinished products for use in defense enterprises were ordered shortly after. Tank body production went into full swing at the beginning of 1942. Work on the other assignments had been begun and was rapidly expanding.

In March 1942, the State Defense Committee added medium-tank bodies to Uralmash's assignment. Preparations for production were completed 24 March, and the first consignment shipped out during April. Completed tanks with Uralmash bodies came out of assembly shops in September.

About the same time Uralmash added self-propelled artillery mounts to its production list. The first trainload of these reached the front 1 January 1943. The plant became the arsenal for self-propelled artillery.

Conversion to civilian production began even before the war was over. A Sovnarkom decree of 21 December 1945 called for serial production of oil-well drilling equipment and heavy electric excavators, and set norms for type and volume of metallurgical equipment to be produced.

In 1944, on a large-series production basis, machine moulding of steel castings comprised 49.5 percent of all moulding. In 1947, operating on a small-series production basis, machine moulding had jumped to 62.9 percent of moulding done. Ten to 13 percent of pig iron castings were made by machine-mould methods. While there was no die stamping in 1940, 45 percent of the output of the hammer-forge shop was die stamped by 1947.

A new and less expensive steel 38KhGN, was developed. Smelted with an alloyed scrap as a base, it replaced costly steel of the OKhNIM type.

Case hardening by high-frequency current was widely applied. During 1947, 440 tons of products were case-hardened electrically, saving 147 tons of fuel and 100 tons of alloyed steel. The process was 4 - 10 times as fast as previously.

Deep case-hardening of cutting tools, electrolytic polishing and other methods of electrochemical heat treatment, including finishing of tools by nitration and cyanization, are finding wider application every day.

In April and May of 1948, Uralmash produced more rolling-mill equipment than in the entire year of 1947.

Much of the equipment built by Uralmash went into the restoration of plants destroyed by the Germans. To the Plant imeni Karl Libknekht went high-power presses for its wheel-rolling shop; to the Plant imeni Dzerzhinskiy went complete equipment for its "1150" Blooming Mill. Zaporozhstal' got a heavy stripped crane and complete equipment for its cold-rolling mill. The "Krasnyy Oktyabr'" Plant got a complete universal mill. Jaw and cone crushers were produced for a number of mine administrations. A great amount of equipment went to the Donbass coal industry, and to the Tuyemka, Dnepropetrovsk, Svirskiy and other regional GESs.

Uralmash has also built a rail structural mill for the Novo-Tagil' Plant. This mill, which is the most powerful rolling mill in the USSR, consist of more than 200 separate machines, units, and combination machines, and weighs over 15,000 tons.

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